

Remarks

Claims 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12 to 15 are cancelled and claims 16 to 28 are added. Accordingly, claims 16 to 28 are pending in this application of which claims 16 and 23 are in independent form.

Claims 5 to 7 had been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zonneveld in the action mailed on June 4, 2003. Claim 16 includes the subject matter of original claims 5 and 7 and the following will show that claim 16 patentably distinguishes the invention over this reference.

Zonneveld discloses an optical microscope including a display unit (see 33 in FIG. 1) which consists of display tubes 34 and 35. The image which is displayed by display tubes 34 and 35 is passed through coupling mirrors 37 and 38 to a video camera 40. However, Zonneveld does not describe any imaging optics for coupling the image of the display unit into the viewing beam path of the microscope. Also, Zonneveld does not suggest a recording device which includes an image mixer for receiving the image data and the image of the object as electronic image data and for mixing this electronic image data therein. More specifically, claim 16 includes the feature and limitation of:

"said recording device including an image mixer for receiving both said image data and said image of said object as electronic image data and for mixing said electronic image data therein."

In Zonneveld, the two images are optically mixed on an image

sensor. In contrast, the images in the applicants' invention are transmitted as electronic signals to the mixer wherein they are mixed in the image mixer as purely electronic image data. The image mixer is shown, for example, in FIG. 6 of the applicants' drawings wherein it is identified by reference numeral 340.

In view of the above, applicants submit that claim 16 should now patentably distinguish the applicants' invention over this reference and be allowable. Claims 17 to 22 are dependent from claim 16 so that these claims too should be allowable.

Claim 23 is added to provide another independent definition of the invention and incorporates the feature and limitation of:

"a device for synchronizing the illumination of said image display unit with said image sensor."

The antecedent basis for this feature and limitation is set forth in the applicants' disclosure on page 6, in the paragraph starting at line 28. With this feature and limitation, claim 23 should also patentably distinguish the applicants' invention over Zonneveld and be allowable. Claims 24 to 28 are dependent from claim 23 so that these claims too should be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter Ottesen
Reg. No. 25,544

Walter Ottesen
Patent Attorney
P.O. Box 4026
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20885-4026

Phone: (301) 869-8950

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